

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4899

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17802

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SL

SUBJ: USSR-SIERRA LEONE: POSSIBLE VISIT TO USSR BY STEVENS

REF: FREETOWN 1318

1. DURING MY RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR BLYDEN OF SIERRA LEONE THE SUBJECT OF A MOSCOW VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS CAME UP. APPARENTLY REFLECTING SOME OF THE REPORTED ANNOYANCE AMONG SIERRA LEONEANS AT THE SOVIETS' REBUFF TO STEVENS' REQUEST TO VISIT HERE IN JULY (REFTEL), BLYDEN SAID THE PRESIDENT IS "CONSIDERING COMING TO THE USSR." HE SAID THE SOVIETS WANT STEVENS TO COME IN EARLY 1975, BUT STEVENS WILL NOT COME UNTIL THE SUMMER, "IF THEN."

2. BLYDEN, WHO HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR HERE SINCE APRIL, 1971, TOLD ME HE IS BEING REASSIGNED IMMINENTLY TO HEAD SIERRA LEONE'S MISSION TO THE UN. HE SAID HE WILL BE LEAVING FOR NEW YORK TO TAKE OFFICIAL CHARGE OF HIS MISSION THERE DECEMBER 1, WILL THEN RETURN TO MOSCOW TO SAY GOOD-BYES AND RETURN TO NEW YORK PERMANENTLY
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IN EARLY 1975.

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